Protection from diseases transmitted *via* environment

952. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how far Government policy has been successful in protecting people from diseases transmitted *via* the environment under the Public Health Act and promoting health and prolonging quality of life;

(b) how the District Medical Officers system has been able to tackle the treatment of the suffering patients; and

(c) whether the services provided under these two system/Health Officers and Medical Officers are adequate in protection and treatment of diseases or Government are thinking of strengthening of the same by enlisting people's participation to meet the objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) While there is no Public Health Act in operation at the national level, Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Government of India administers various legislations to protect water, air and environment. The Pollution Control Boards at the Central and state level assist to achieve this objective. The Ministries of Water Resources, Rural Development and Urban Development in the Government of India support the State Governments in providing safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

Prevention and control of diseases is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its national health programmes to prevent/control various diseases including those transmitted *via* environment. The national health programmes have envisaged private partnership whenever necessary to meet the objectives.

Increase in malaria and dengue cases

953. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1848 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th August, 2004 and state:

(a) whether there has been an abnormal increase of cases of dengue and particularly of malaria;